Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06 SP-02 LAB-04 EPG-02 SIL-01 OMB-01 PA-02 PRS-01 STR-04 /075 W

-----010233Z 010354 /73

R 311858Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3618
INFO USMISSION OECD PARIS
AMCONSUL MONTREAL
ALL OTHER CANADIAN CONSULS (BY POUCH)

UNCLAS OTTAWA 04455

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS ETRD, EFIN, CA SUBJECT: RECORD TRAVEL DEFICIT FOR FIRST QUARTER

- 1. FIRST QUARTER OF 1977 PRODUCED RECORD INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL DEFICIT OF C\$805 MILLION, ACCORDING TO STATISTICS CANADA. PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES RELEASED ON MAY 27 SHOW THAT CANADA EARNED C\$187 MILLION FROM INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL WHILE CANADIANS SPENT C\$992 MILLION ABROAD. DEFICIT WAS 16.8 PERCENT HIGHER THAN IN FIRST QUARTER OF 1976.
- 2. CANADIANS CONTINUED INCREASE THEIR SPENDING IN U.S. WITH PAYMENTS OF C\$650 MILLION FOR FIRST QUARTER (UP 14.8 PERCENT OVER LAST YEAR), WHILE AMERICAN VISITORS TO CANADA SPENT C\$140 MILLION COMPARED WITH C\$136 MILLION IN 1976. TRAVEL DEFICIT WITH U.S. WIDENED FROM C\$430 MILLION IN FIRST QUARTER OF 1976 TO C\$510 MILLION COMPARABLE PERIOD IN 1977.
- 3. COMMENT: TRADE DEFICIT FOR FIRST QUARTER MORE THAN UNCLASSIFIED

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OFFSET MERCHANDISE TRADE SURPLUS OF C\$780 MILLION (BALANCE OF PAYMENTS, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED). WITH INCREASED PAYMENTS FOR SERVICING OF CANADIAN OVERSEAS DEBT, CANADA'S CURRENT ACCOUNT WILL BE IN DEFICIT FOR FIRST QUARTER BUT PROBABLY NOT AS HIGH AS ALMOST C\$2 BILLION DEFICIT OF FIRST QUARTER OF 1976 WHEN CANADA ALSO HAD MERCHANDISE TRADE DEFICIT. ENDERS

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